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#7 IN A TWELVE-ISSUE LIMITED SERIES

THE VISION

AND THE Scarlet Witch

ONCE I
DESTROY YOU--
THE SCARLET WITCH
SHALL BE MINE
--AS MY
BRIDE!

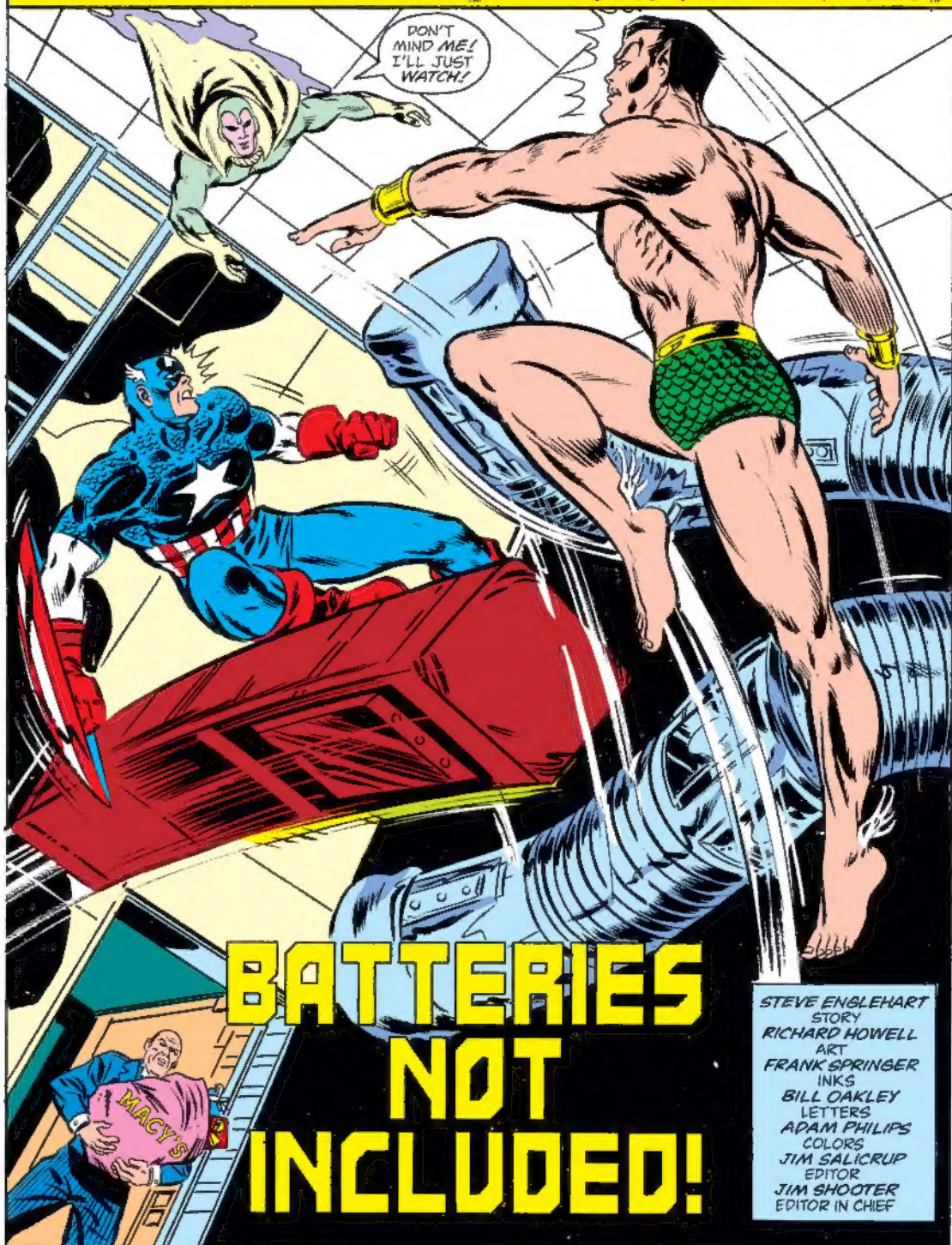


WOULD YOU BELIEVE--
THE TERRIBLE
TOAD-KING!

Howell &
Pitt-Jones

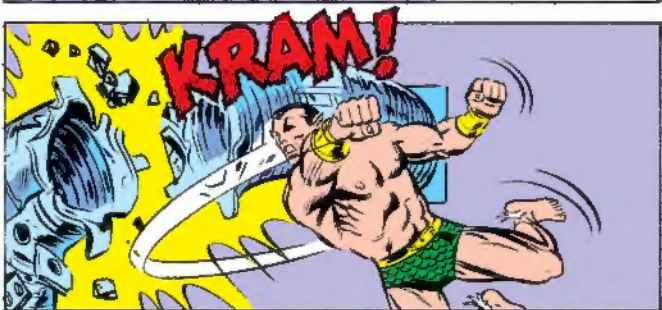
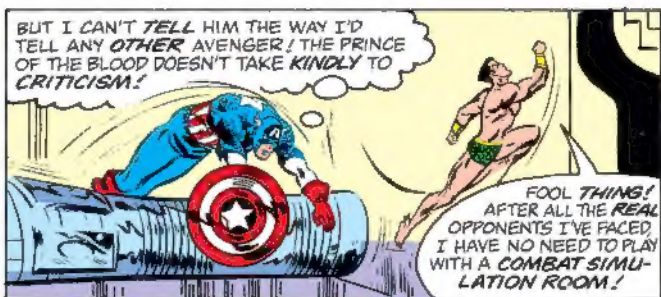
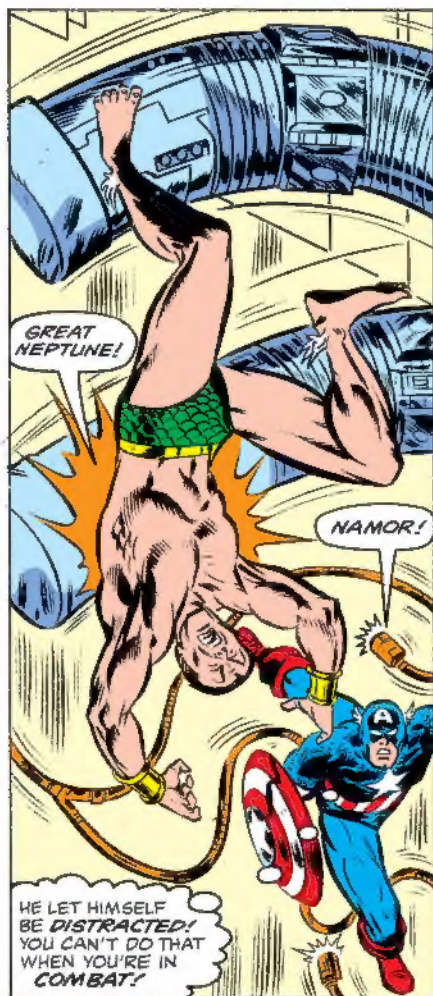
Stan
Lee
PRESENTS:

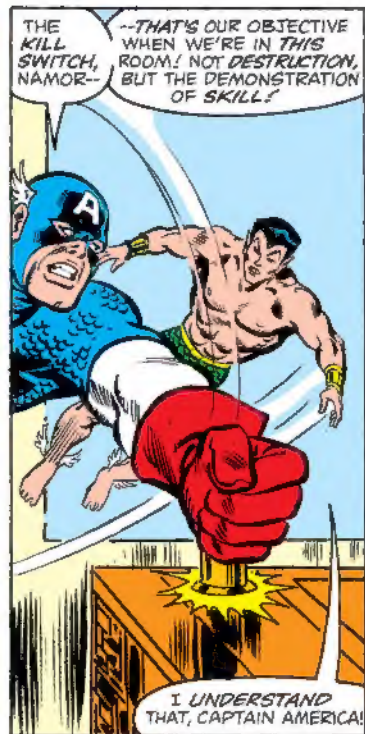
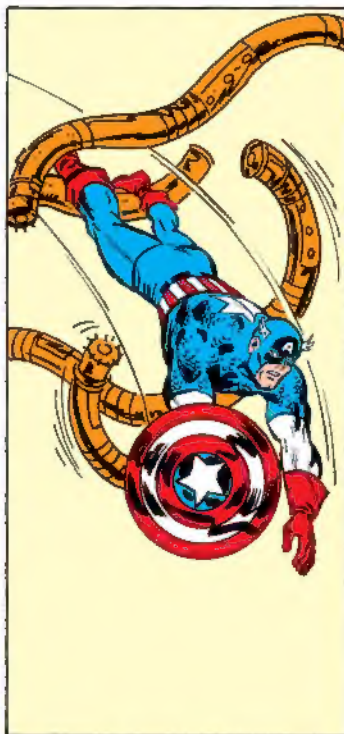
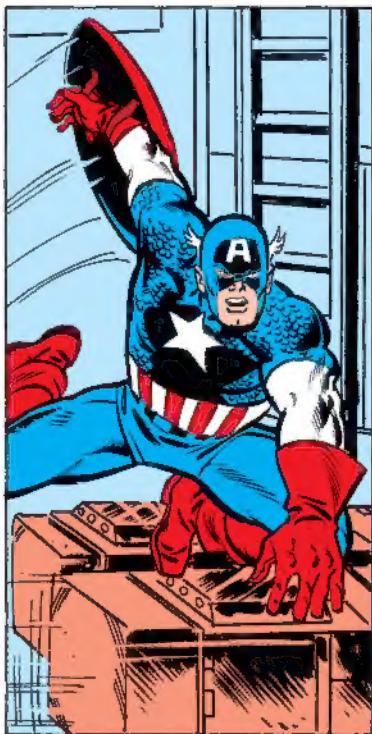
VISION and the Scarlet Witch



**BATTERIES
NOT
INCLUDED!**

STEVE ENGLEHART
STORY
RICHARD HOWELL
ART
FRANK SPRINGER
INKS
BILL OAKLEY
LETTERS
ADAM PHILIPS
COLORS
JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR
JIM SHOOTER
EDITOR IN CHIEF





BUT YOU, VISION! WHY DID YOU INTERRUPT US LIKE THAT?

I USED TO INTERRUPT QUITE OFTEN WHEN I LIVED HERE, NAMOR! WHEN THE SIMULATION MACHINES WEREN'T SET FOR MY PARTICULAR ABILITIES, I COULD ENTER WITHOUT GREAT DANGER--



--AND YOU REALLY MUST LEARN NOT TO LET SUCH THINGS DISTRACT YOU!

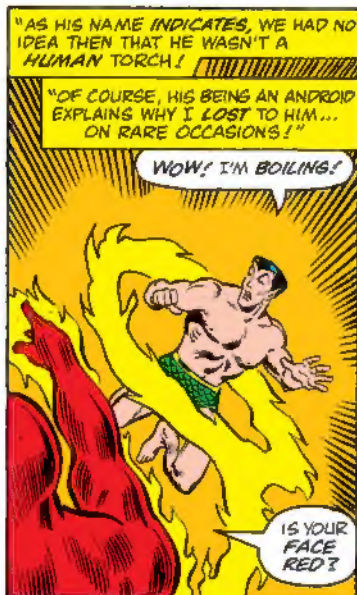
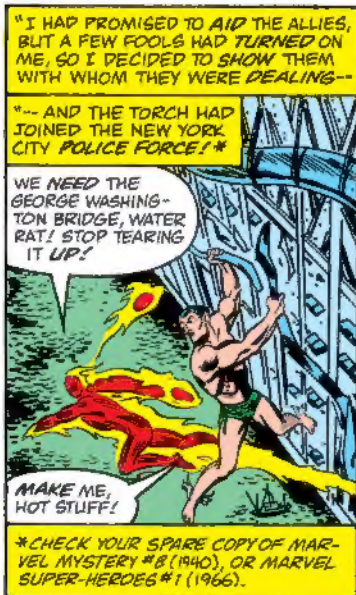
AHH--WHAT HE SAID, SUB-MARINER!

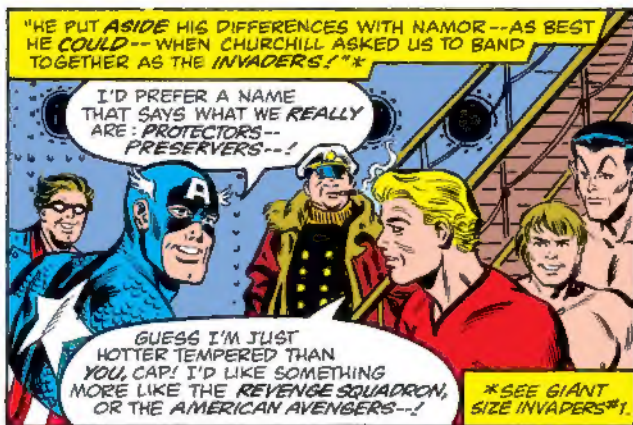
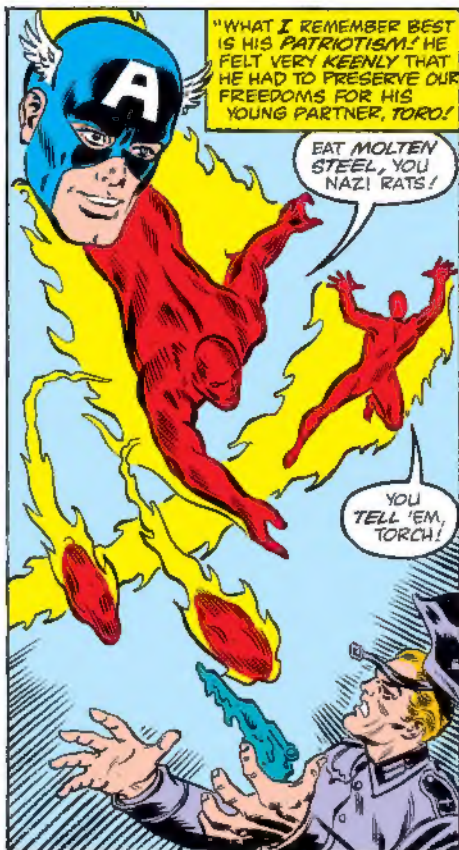
SO WERE YOU TESTING US, VIZH, OR JUST DROPPING BY TO WISH US SEASON'S GREETINGS?

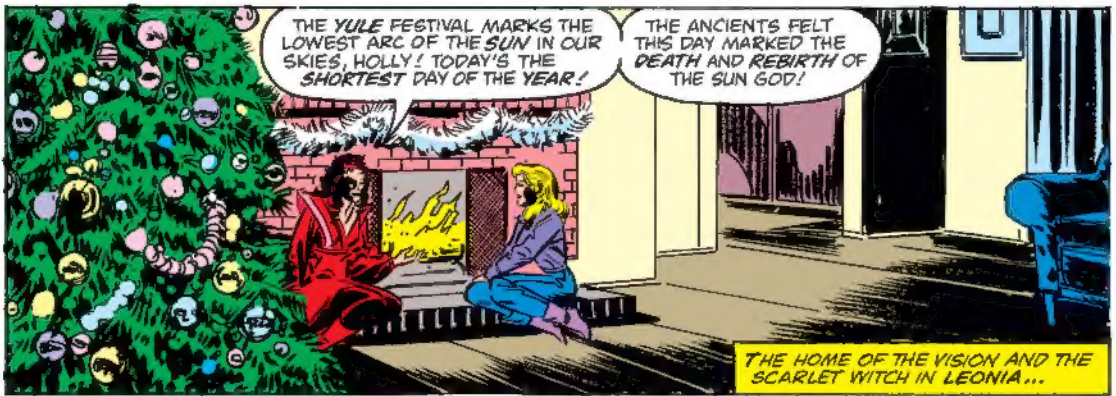
NEITHER, CAP! ACTUALLY, I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT SOMETHING YOU SAID AT OUR THANKSGIVING FEAST LAST MONTH--

--SO I WANTED TO ASK YOU BOTH FOR FIRST-HAND INFORMATION ON THE ANDROID WHO LIVED IN THIS BODY BEFORE I DID--

--THE ORIGINAL HUMAN TORCH!







THE YULE FESTIVAL MARKS THE LOWEST ARC OF THE SUN IN OUR SKIES, HOLLY! TODAY'S THE SHORTEST DAY OF THE YEAR!

THE ANCIENTS FELT THIS DAY MARKED THE DEATH AND REBIRTH OF THE SUN GOD!

THE HOME OF THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH IN LEONIA...



THE YULE LOG WAS LIT TO KEEP THE FIRE ALIVE IN THE WORLD UNTIL THE BIRTH BEGAN!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND, WANDA! I THOUGHT YOU WERE TEACHING ME WITCHCRAFT, AND THIS SOUNDS MORE LIKE CHRISTMAS-- WHICH I KNOW ALREADY!*

* HOLLY LAPONNA WAS ACCEPTED AS WANDA'S STUDENT LAST ISSUE.

THE BIRTH OF THE SUN-- OR THE BIRTH OF THE SON! MOTHER NATURE FOLLOWS THE SAME PATTERN EVERY YEAR-- ONLY THE MANIFESTATION CHANGES! THE GREAT PERSIAN GOD MITHRAS WAS ALSO BORN AT MIDWINTER!



THE POINT IS THAT THIS IS A TIME TO PUT ASIDE THE PROBLEMS OF THE WANING YEAR, AND CELEBRATE NEW PROSPECTS-- NO MATTER WHO YOU ARE!

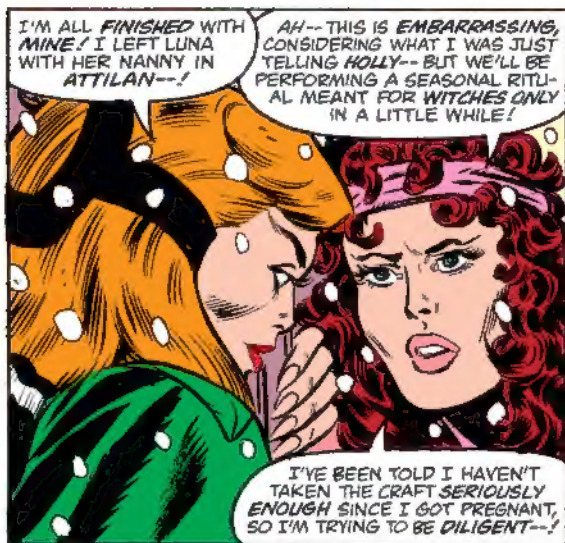
IT'S A TIME TO GATHER 'ROUND THE FIRE WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS--

DING DONG



WHY-- CRYSTAL!

HI, WANDA! I CAME DOWN TO SEE IF I COULD HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOLIDAY PREPARATIONS!



I'M ALL FINISHED WITH MINE! I LEFT LUNA WITH HER NANNY IN ATTILAN--!

AH-- THIS IS EMBARRASSING, CONSIDERING WHAT I WAS JUST TELLING HOLLY-- BUT WE'LL BE PERFORMING A SEASONAL RITUAL MEANT FOR WITCHES ONLY IN A LITTLE WHILE!

I'VE BEEN TOLD I HAVEN'T TAKEN THE CRAFT SERIOUSLY ENOUGH SINCE I GOT PREGNANT, SO I'M TRYING TO BE DILIGENT--!



OH YES-- NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, PIETRO TOLD ME MIDWINTER WAS SPECIAL TO YOU, BUT I GUESS I FORGOT!

OH WELL, IT'LL BE FUN TO WANDER THROUGH REAL SNOW WHILE YOU'RE BUSY!

OH, NO! WAIT INSIDE--!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT! I'VE BEEN WANTING TO EXPLORE YOUR LITTLE TOWN ANYWAY!

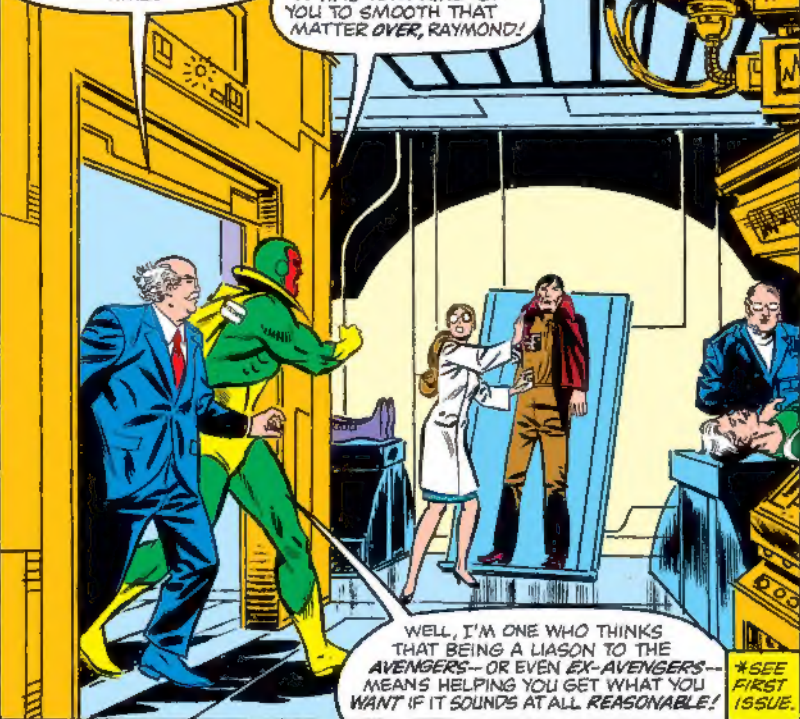


I'LL
SEE YOU
LATER!

WELL, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D
SEE YOU AROUND HERE AGAIN,
VISION-- THE WAY YOU AND
WANDA LEFT US THE LAST
TIME!

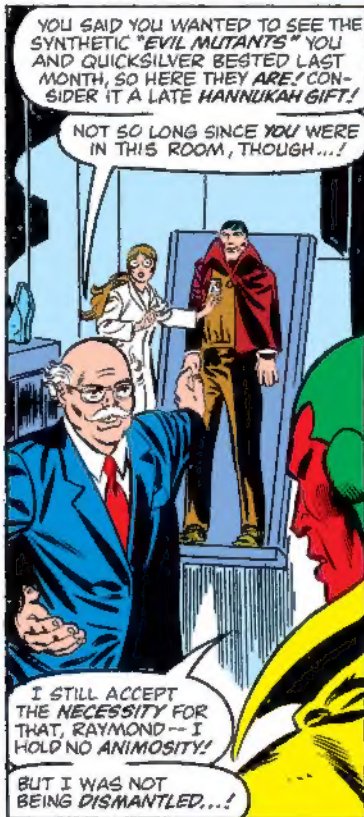
**PROJECT PEGASUS-- WHICH WANDA
BROKE VIZH OUT OF AFTER THEY BROKE
THEIR TIES WITH THE GOVERNMENT.***

IT WAS VERY KIND OF
YOU TO SMOOTH THAT
MATTER OVER, RAYMOND!



WELL, I'M ONE WHO THINKS
THAT BEING A LIASON TO THE
AVENGERS--OR EVEN EX-AVENGERS--
MEANS HELPING YOU GET WHAT YOU
WANT IF IT SOUNDS AT ALL REASONABLE!

*SEE
FIRST
ISSUE.

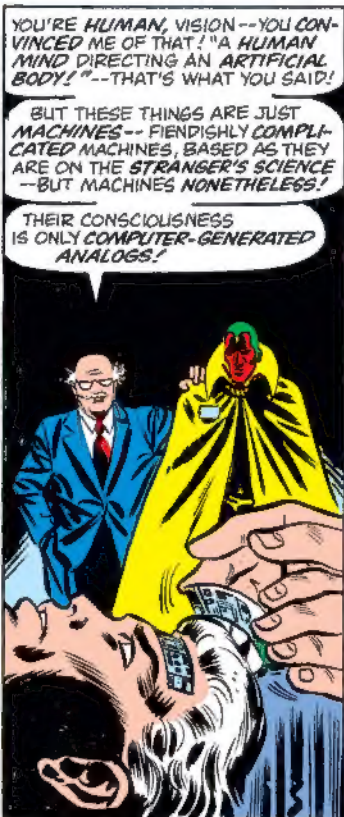


YOU SAID YOU WANTED TO SEE THE
SYNTHETIC "EVIL MUTANTS" YOU
AND QUICKSILVER BESTED LAST
MONTH, SO HERE THEY ARE! CON-
SIDER IT A LATE HANNUKAH GIFT!

NOT SO LONG SINCE YOU WERE
IN THIS ROOM, THOUGH ...!

I STILL ACCEPT
THE NECESSITY FOR
THAT, RAYMOND-- I
HOLD NO ANIMOSITY!

BUT I WAS NOT
BEING DISMANTLED...!



YOU'RE HUMAN, VISION--YOU CON-
VINCED ME OF THAT! "A HUMAN
MIND DIRECTING AN ARTIFICIAL
BODY!"--THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID!

BUT THESE THINGS ARE JUST
MACHINES-- FIENDISHLY COM-
PLICATED MACHINES, BASED AS THEY
ARE ON THE STRANGER'S SCIENCE
--BUT MACHINES NONETHELESS!

THEIR CONSCIOUSNESS
IS ONLY COMPUTER-GENERATED
ANALOGS!



HEL-LO



BUT I RE-MEM-BER
THE LIFE TO COME!!

SLAM!



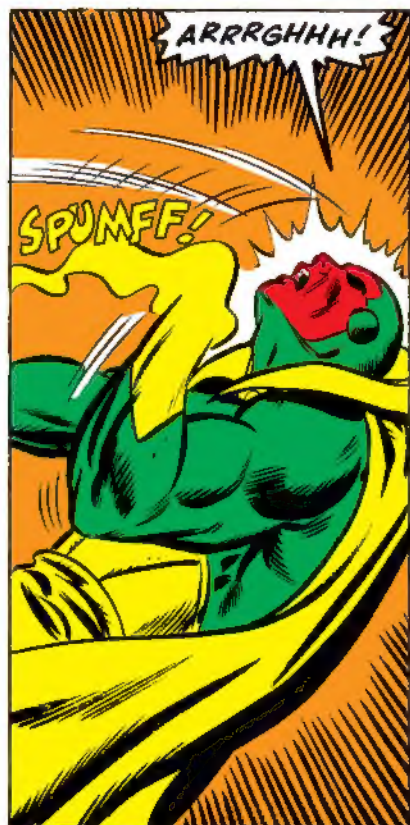
MY MAS-TER THE TOAD KING IS A
GE-NI-US! HE A-LONE COULD PRE-
PRO-GRAM US TO TRANS-FORM
OUR-SELVES AF-TER ONE COM-
PLETE CY-CLE OF THE MOON!

YOU MUST HAVE
BEAT-EN US IN OUR
PRE-VI-OU-S FORMS,
BUT THE TOAD KING
IS AL-WAYS
PRE-PARED!



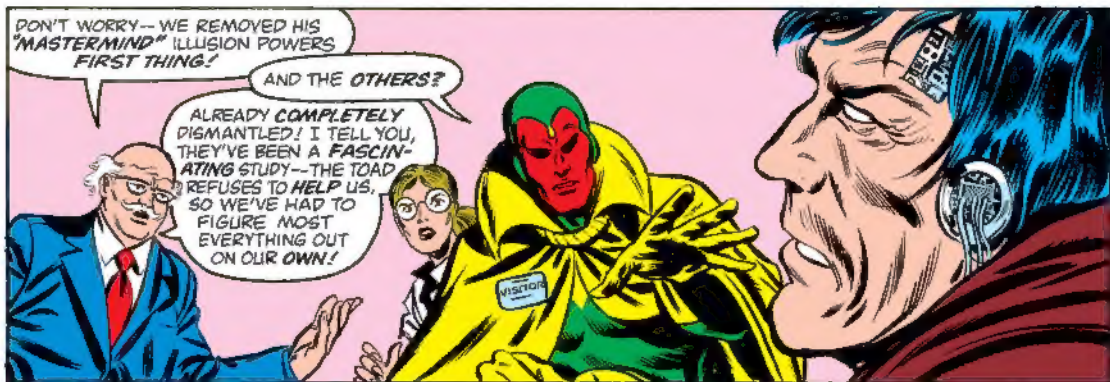
HE MAY OR MAY
NOT BE A GENIUS, BUT
HE COULDN'T FORESEE
MY PRESENCE HERE!

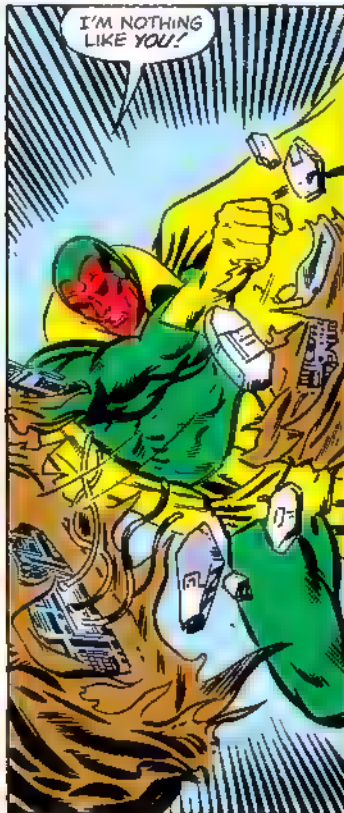
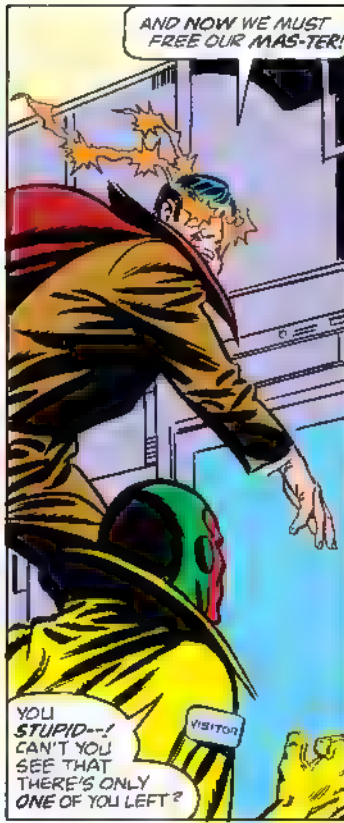
WHATEVER HIDDEN
RESOURCES HE BUILT
INTO YOU, THEY CANNOT
ESCAPE MY ABILITY TO
ALTER MY DENSITY--

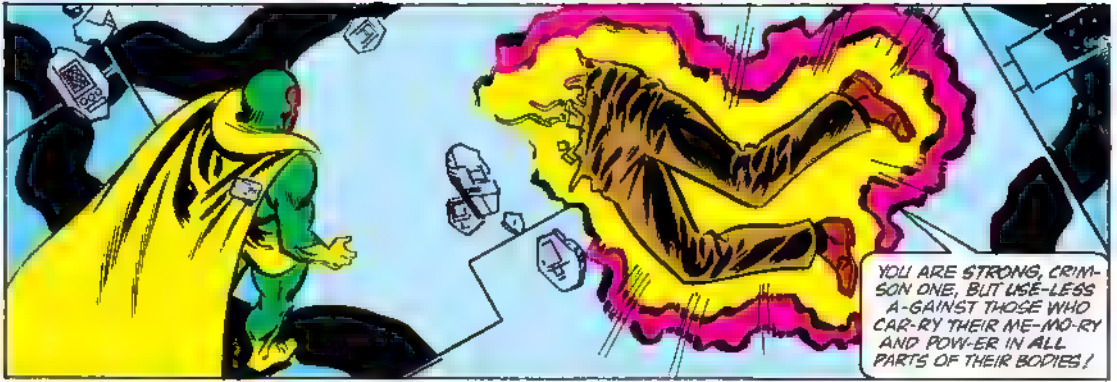


ARRRGHHH!

SPUMFF!



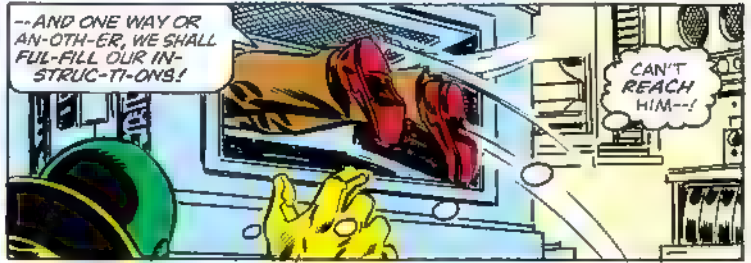




YOU ARE STRONG, CRIMSON ONE, BUT USE-LESS A-GAINST THOSE WHO CAR-RY THEIR ME-MO-RY AND POW-ER IN ALL PARTS OF THEIR BODIES!

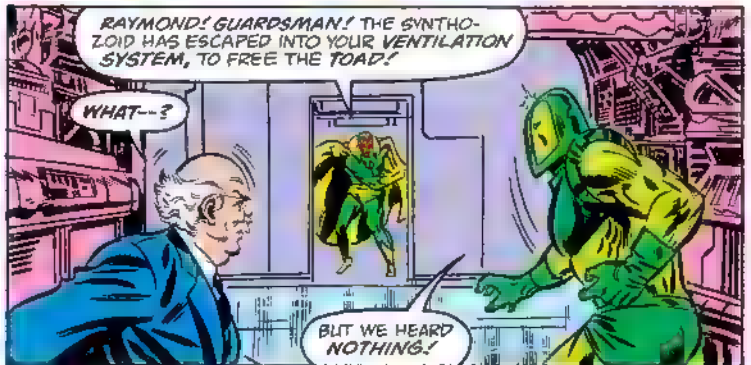


OUR PRI-MAR-Y OB-JEC-TIVE IS THE LI-BER-A-TI-ON OF OUR MAS-TER--



-- AND ONE WAY OR AN-OTH-ER, WE SHALL FUL-FILL OUR IN-STRUC-TI-ONS!

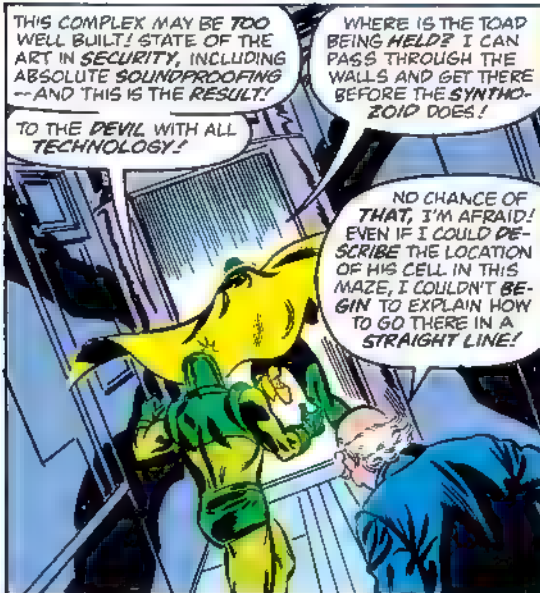
CAN'T REACH HIM--!



RAYMOND! GUARDSMAN! THE SYNTHO-ZOID HAS ESCAPED INTO YOUR VENTILATION SYSTEM, TO FREE THE TOAD!

WHAT--?

BUT WE HEARD NOTHING!

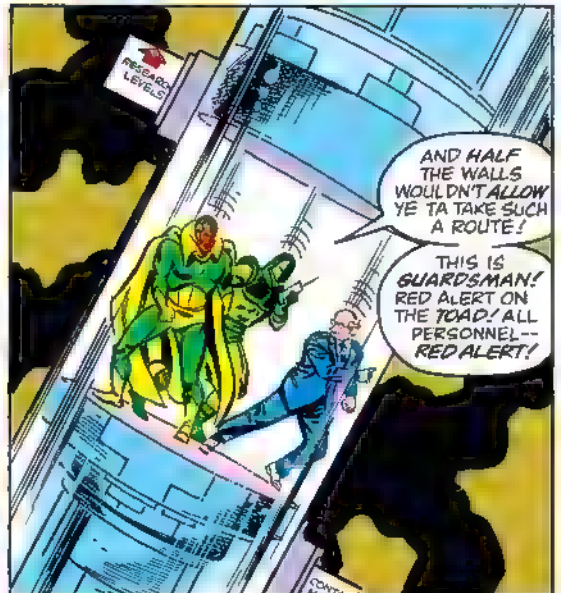


THIS COMPLEX MAY BE TOO WELL BUILT! STATE OF THE ART IN SECURITY, INCLUDING ABSOLUTE SOUNDPROOFING --AND THIS IS THE RESULT!

TO THE DEVIL WITH ALL TECHNOLOGY!

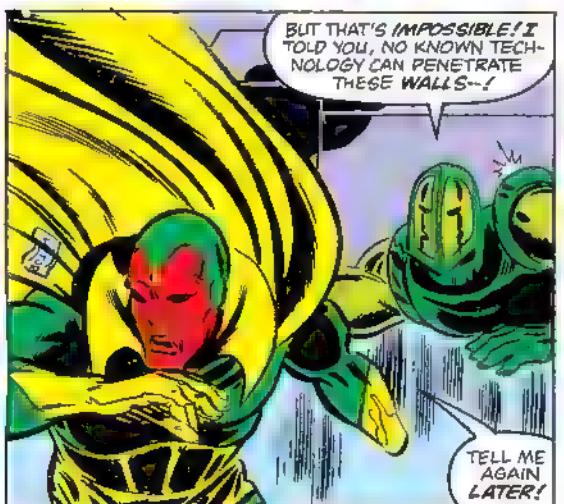
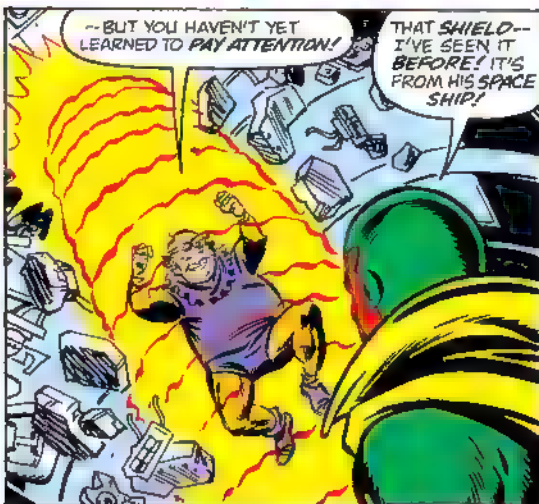
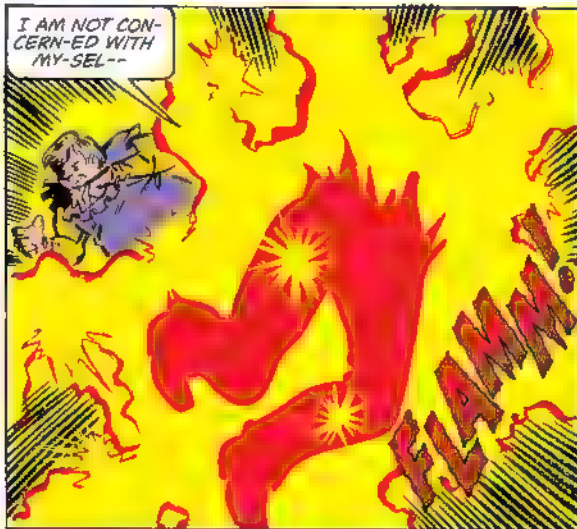
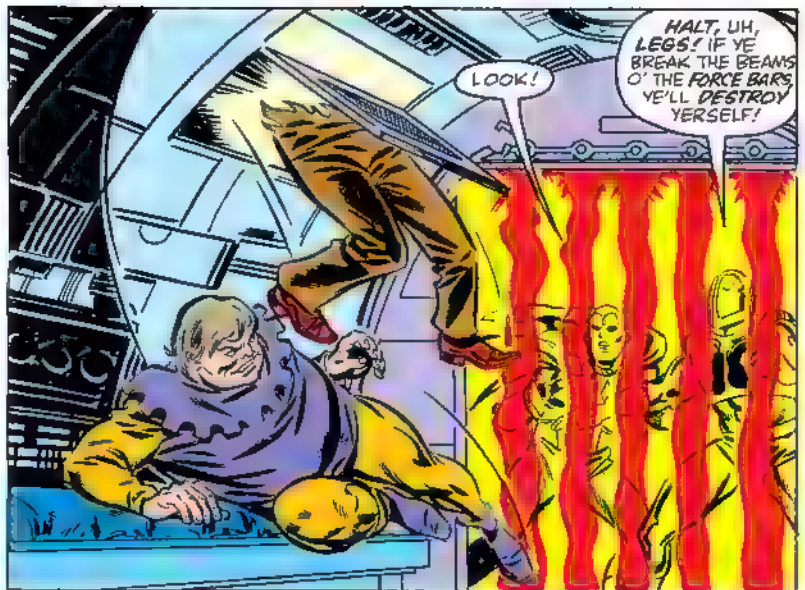
WHERE IS THE TOAD BEING HELD? I CAN PASS THROUGH THE WALLS AND GET THERE BEFORE THE SYNTHO-ZOID DOES!

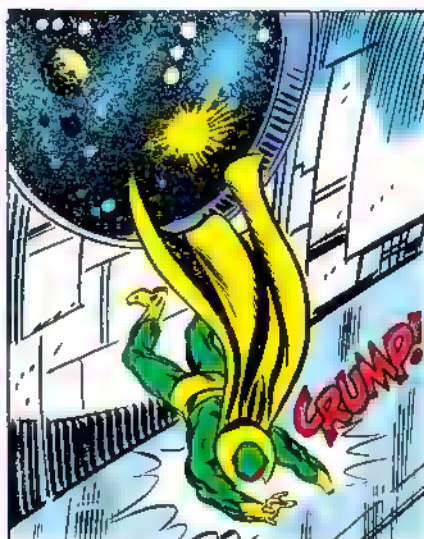
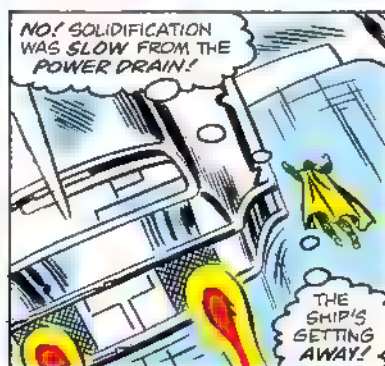
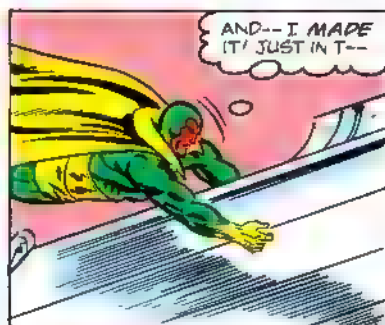
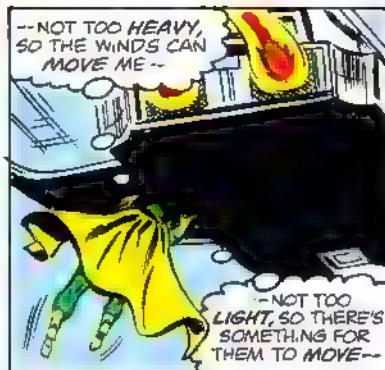
NO CHANCE OF THAT, I'M AFRAID! EVEN IF I COULD DESCRIBE THE LOCATION OF HIS CELL IN THIS MAZE, I COULDN'T BEGIN TO EXPLAIN HOW TO GO THERE IN A STRAIGHT LINE!



AND HALF THE WALLS WOULDN'T ALLOW YE TA TAKE SUCH A ROUTE!

THIS IS GUARDSMAN! RED ALERT ON THE TOAD! ALL PERSONNEL-- RED ALERT!







BUT, WANDA, PEOPLE CAN'T *REALLY* HAVE THOUGHT THE SUN DIED AT MIDWINTER!

WHY NOT? THEY SAW HIM GROW *WEAKER* AND *WEAKER*, AND ALL THE VEGETATION HE'D GIVEN THEM *LAST SUMMER* WAS *ALREADY DEAD*!



I'M BEING SILLY AGAIN! IT'S JUST THAT--AS THE *PREGNANCY* GOES ON, I FIND MYSELF *WORRY-ING* MORE ABOUT *VIZ'S SAFETY*!

THE IDEA OF *FAMILY* IS GROWING FOR ME, I GUESS--AND I COULDN'T BEAR TO *LOSE HIM* NOW...



HE WAS DEFINITELY A "*HE*" TO THEM, NOT AN "*IT*," AND IF DEATH CAME TO EVERY *OTHER* LIVING THING, WHY SHOULD HE BE *DIFFERENT*?

THAT'S WHY THEY CREATED SO MUCH *RITUAL* AROUND THE *REBIRTH*-- FESTIVALS, GIFT GIVING, EVERGREEN TREES AS A SYMBOL OF *SURVIVAL*, THE *YULE LOG*...

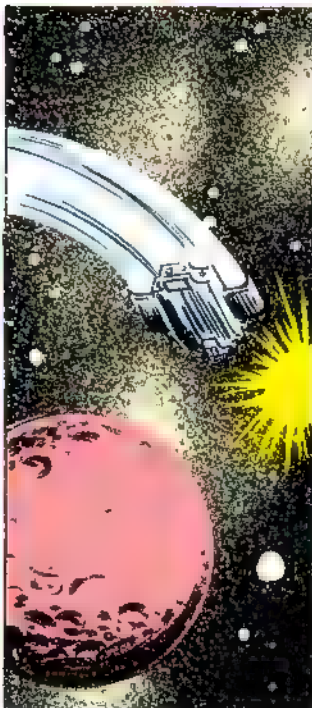
WANDA--?

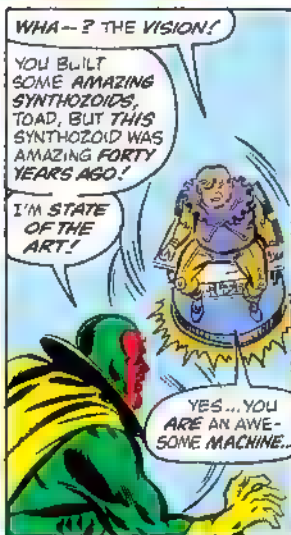
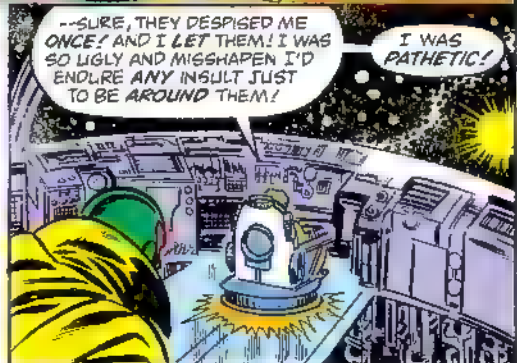
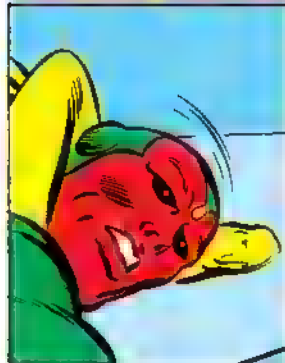
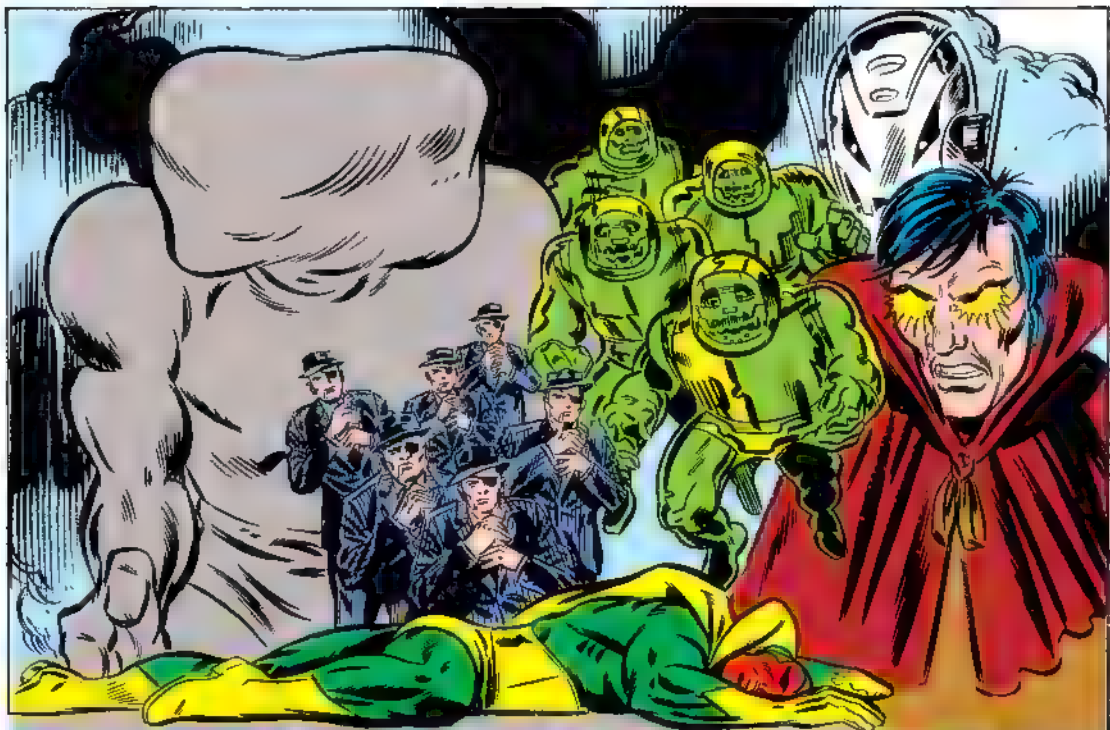


SORRY, HOLLY-- I GUESS I'M A LITTLE *DISTRACTED*! MY HUSBAND SHOULD HAVE BEEN *HOME* BY NOW--AND *CRYSTAL*, TOO FOR THAT *MATTER*!

SHOULD WE *BREAK THIS UP*?

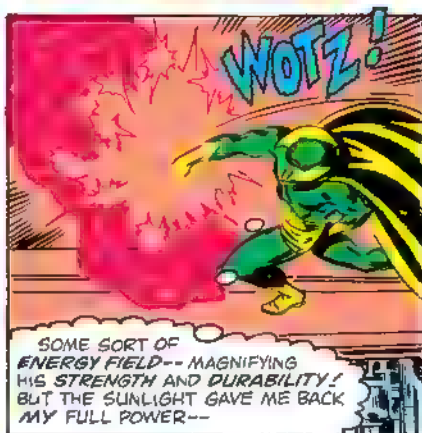
NO, NO...







THIS IS HOW I
TRAIN MY SYN-
THOZIDS VISION!
THEY MAY LACK
INDEPENDENT
MINDS, BUT WHEN
I'M THROUGH WITH
THEM THEY KNOW
WHO THEIR
MASTER IS--



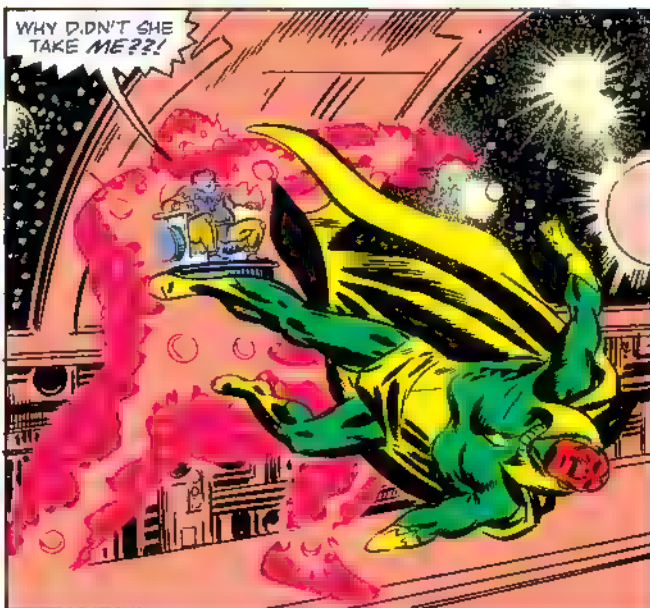
SOME SORT OF
ENERGY FIELD-- MAGNIFYING
HIS STRENGTH AND DURABILITY!
BUT THE SUNLIGHT GAVE ME BACK
MY FULL POWER--



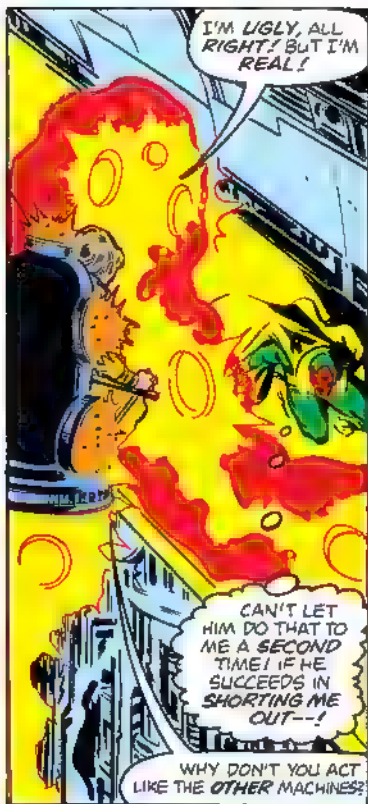
YOU'RE ONLY A MACHINE,
VISION! VULNERABLE TO
ELECTRIC DISCHARGE
LIKE ANY MACHINE!

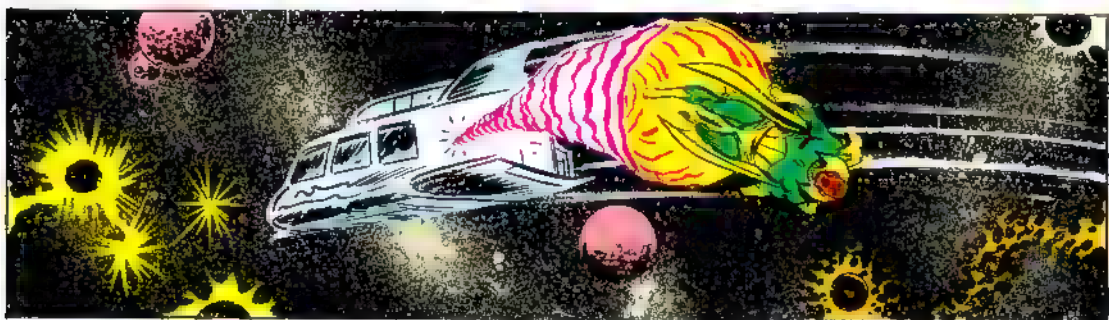
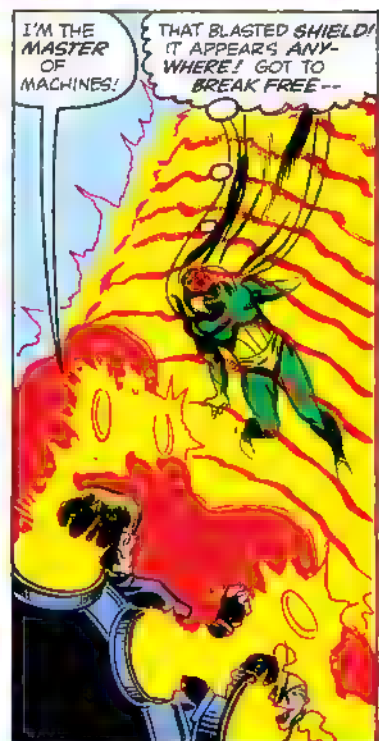
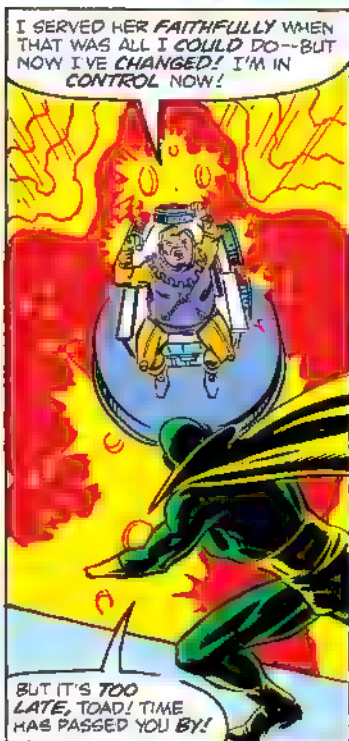
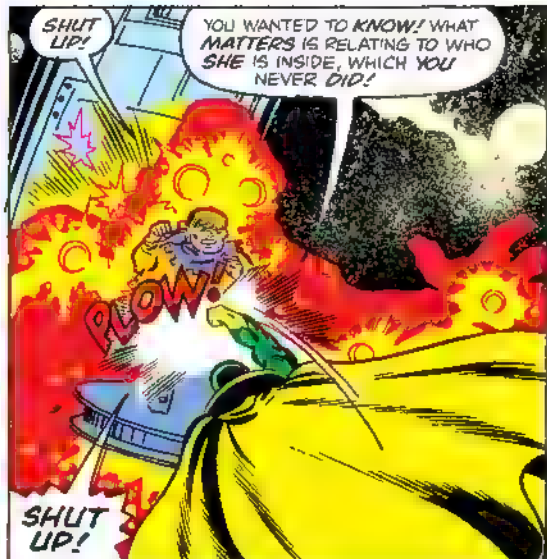
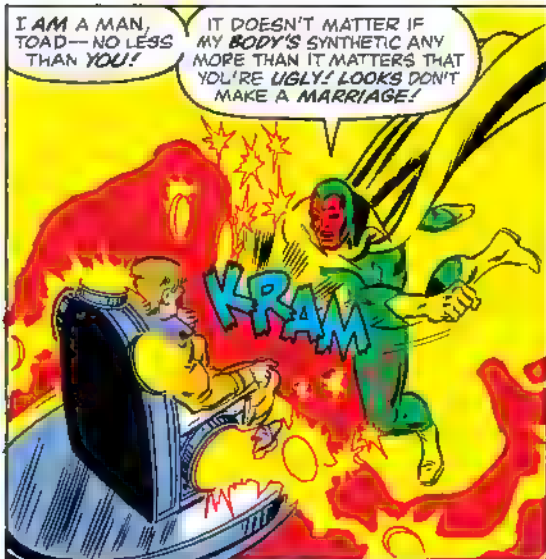
SHZZZZSSST

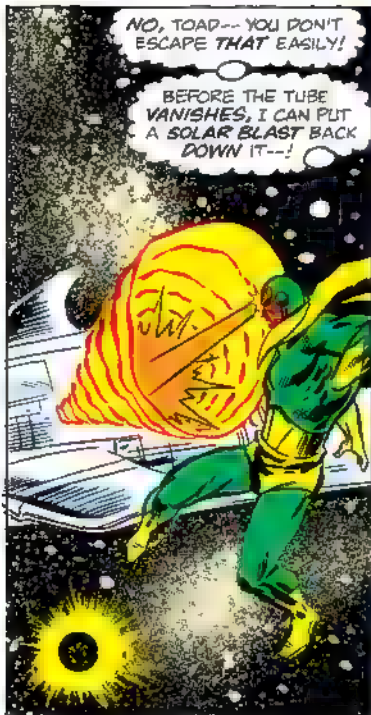
WHY DID
SHE TAKE
YOU??



WHY DID SHE
TAKE ME???

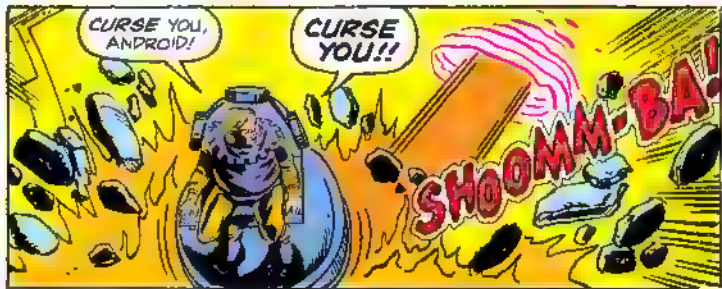






NO, TOAD--- YOU DON'T
ESCAPE THAT EASILY!

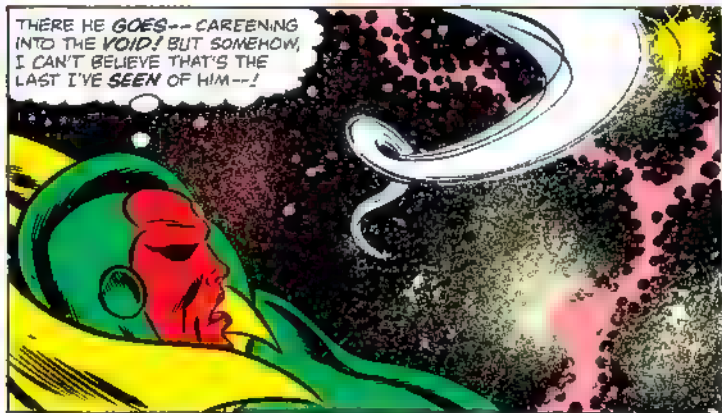
BEFORE THE TUBE
VANISHES, I CAN PUT
A SOLAR BLAST BACK
DOWN IT---



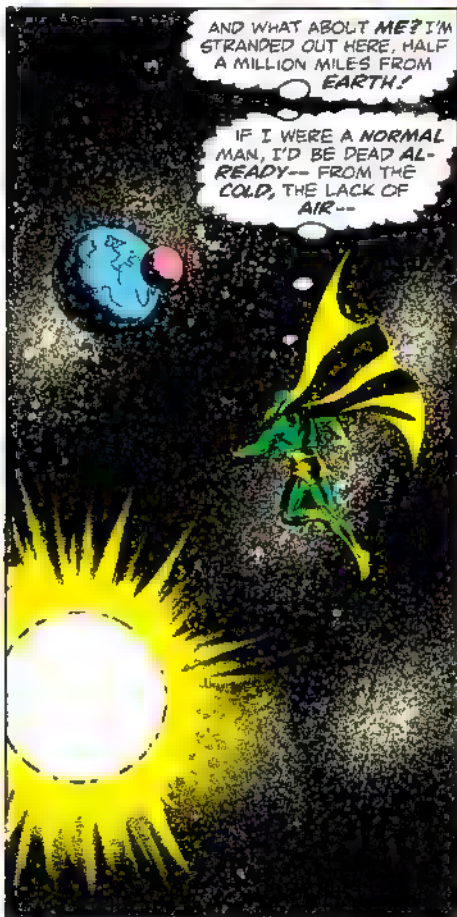
CURSE YOU,
ANDROID!

CURSE
YOU!!

SHOOMM-BA!



THERE HE GOES--- CAREENING
INTO THE VOID! BUT SOMEHOW,
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT'S THE
LAST I'VE SEEN OF HIM---

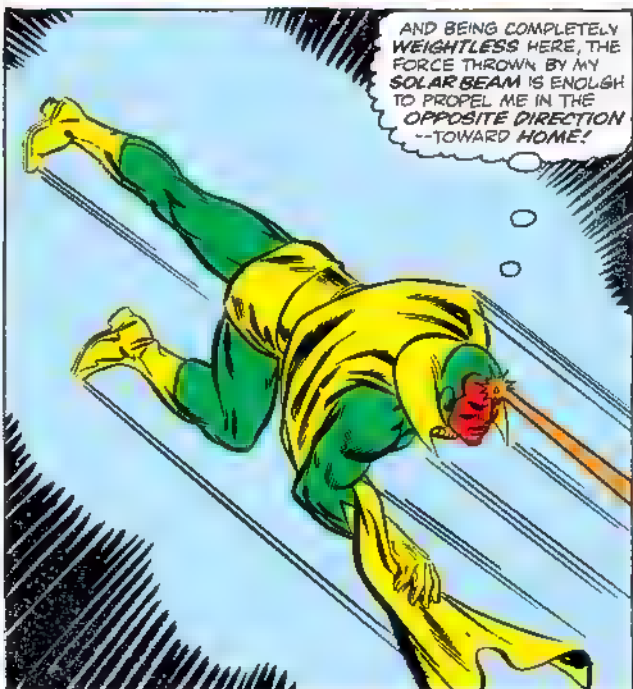


AND WHAT ABOUT ME? I'M
STRANDED OUT HERE, HALF
A MILLION MILES FROM
EARTH!

IF I WERE A NORMAL
MAN, I'D BE DEAD AL-
READY-- FROM THE
COLD, THE LACK OF
AIR--



--BUT I'M NOT A
NORMAL MAN, SO NONE
OF THAT AFFECTS ME!



AND BEING COMPLETELY
WEIGHTLESS HERE, THE
FORCE THROWN BY MY
SOLAR BEAM IS ENOUGH
TO PROPEL ME IN THE
OPPOSITE DIRECTION
--TOWARD HOME!

THE SILENCE AROUND HIM IS ABSOLUTE, AS IS EACH INDIVIDUAL POINT OF LIGHT--

--EACH POINT A SUN IN ITSELF!



THERE'S NO WAY TO MEASURE THE SPEED OF HIS PASSAGE THROUGH THAT SILENCE-- THE STAR-SUNS DON'T APPEAR TO MOVE, AND THERE'S NO BREEZE TO BLOW PAST HIS EARS--

--BUT HE DOESN'T GET BORED--



--AND SLOWLY, STEADILY, THE VAST BLUE BALL WE CALL OUR OWN LOOMS LARGER AND LARGER BELOW HIM--



--AND THEN, THE FIRST BARE BREEZES DO BEGIN TO BLOW, AS HE DROPS BACK INTO EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE!

ALMOST AT ONCE, HE BEGINS TO BURN, LIKE A FALLING STAR--

--LIKE A HUMAN TORCH--

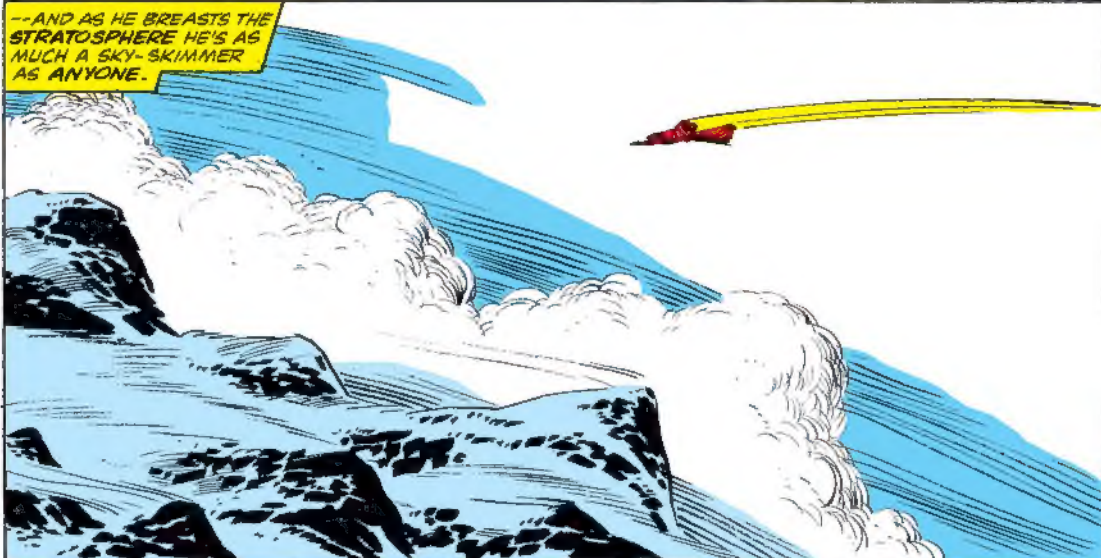


--BUT HE REGULATES HIS DENSITY TO DECREASE THE FRICTION, AND THE FIRE DIES AWAY!



THROUGH THE EXOSPHERE, THE IONOSPHERE HE FALLS, FASTER AND FASTER YET GAINING CONTROL AS HE GAINS AIR TO WORK WITH--

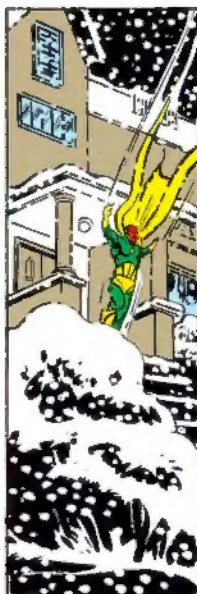
--AND AS HE BREASTS THE STRATOSPHERE HE'S AS MUCH A SKY-SKIMMER AS ANYONE.





ANYONE--

LOOK, DAD! IT'S SANTA CLAUS!



VIZH! GREAT GODDESS, I'VE BEEN WORRIED SICK!

I'M SORRY, WANDA! BUT I HAD NO WAY TO TELEPHONE!



YOU WERE ONLY GOING TO MACY'S--!

UH-- THANKS, WANDA! IT'S BEEN A FABULOUS SESSION, BUT I THINK IT'S TIME I HIT IT!

I REALLY GOT INTO WHAT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT TONIGHT, THOUGH!

OKAY, HOLLY! SEE YOU SOON!



NOW TELL ME-- WHERE DID YOU GO?

INTO MY HEAD, MOSTLY! IT WAS THE SAME OLD QUESTION--HOW MUCH AM I A MAN AND HOW MUCH A SYNTHOZOID--AND NOW, WHICH SYNTHOZOID?

BUT I FOUND A BETTER ANSWER THIS TIME!



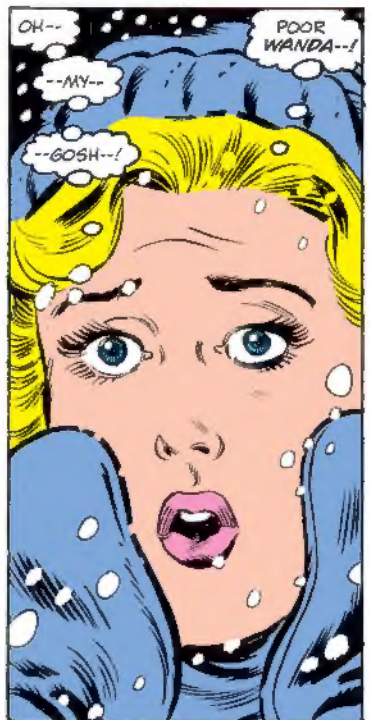
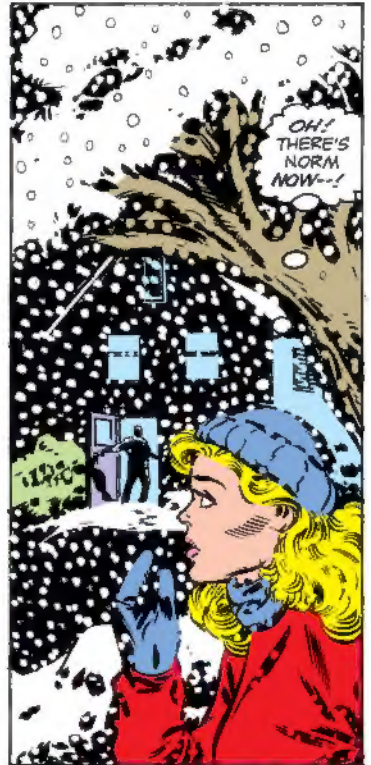
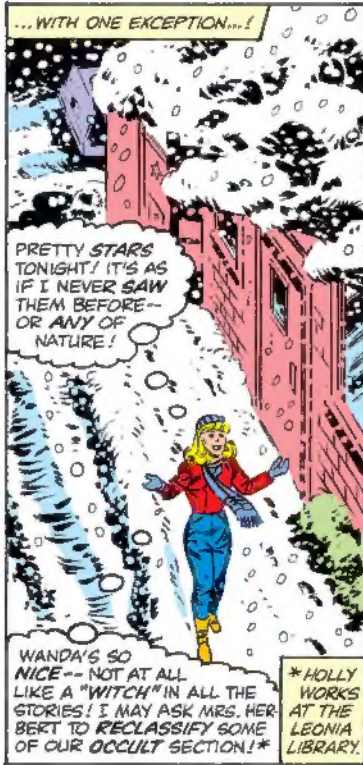
I'M THE VISION!



AS SOMEONE THE SUB-MARINER WOULD APPROVE OF WOULD SAY--

"-- I YAM WHAT I YAM-- AND THAT'S ALL THAT I YAM!"

AND TO ALL A GOOD NIGHT...



Next: **FIRST STIRRINGS!**

THE VISION AND THE SCARLET WITCH LETTERS PAGE

% MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10018

JIM SALICRUP
EDITOR

Dear Jim and Steve,

I am greatly enjoying this Limited Series, but #3 absolutely blew me away! At the risk of dating myself, I remember when Dame Agatha Harkness first tutored Wanda in the mystic arts in an AV-ENGER's classic entitled "Bewitched, Bothered . . . and Dead." It seems the wheel has turned full circle, as Wanda used her powers to avenge Dame Agatha's death.

Marvel Comics, through the medium of these characters and their marriage, has presented an effective plea for tolerance and acceptance of "the different" among us for years. It is through this use of allegory that I fervently hope change will take place within the hearts and minds of your readers, who will become the lawyers, politicians and decision makers of the coming decades.

Incidentally, this is a good place to announce that a colleague and I are preparing a proposal/outline for a course in the Marvel Universe. With administrative approval and student interest, it may be offered to our students within the next year.

I am interested in hearing from any college instructors who have successfully "taught" Marvel Comics either as part of a course on popular culture or as a full course. We'd like to know what supplementary materials, methodology, instructional strategies and assignments/projects have been used successfully.

Keep up the good work, guys! Thanks so much for letting me use this space to contact other teaching Marvelites. I am looking forward to asking you to visit my classes as a guest speaker sometime soon!

Joe Pizzo
1613 Falmouth Avenue
New Hyde Park, NY 11040

Jim and Richard say they'll be waiting, Joe (though Steve, out on the West Coast, will probably have to wait till you become a guest lecturer at UC Berkely). Good luck!

Dear Jim, Jim, Steve and Richard,

If you could just imagine how I feel, seeing my favorite mutant sorceress in her own full-fledged title!

Thank you so much for restoring the long evening gloves of the Witch. And that Richard Howell artwork—simply fabulous! You have restored the Scarlet Witch to her former glory—the days of THE AVENGERS of issues #36 (taxar) up until the abduction by Magneto.

Since you are exploring her and Vision's family ties, please display the mystical relationship between the Scarlet Witch and the God of Thunder. After all, Wanda, at the time of her birth received the greatest source of arcane energy manipulation on Earth from the demon/god Cthon. Cthon happens to be Thor's maternal Uncle and the demon is Wanda's supernatural father. Not her natural father, but supernatural parent! This means that Thor and Wanda are mystical cousins (at least in theory). Speaking of Cthon, please let him try to invade Earth again in the series. That reminds me, the Book of Cthon belongs to its rightful heirless, the Scarlet Witch.

I have three last points: 1. Please figure out some way to have Wanda fly again. She flew in past issues and then somebody changed his mind and said we were all seeing things. She never wore a flying belt, and I think it's a cheap trick to pull one of these numbers on the good guys.

2. Define the Witch's power as arcane-science. It's quasi-mystical in nature and even Wanda doesn't summon magical energy as Dr. Strange or others can do; she can control magical energy from outside sources as issue #3 shows.

Also, let Wanda hex her and Vision's home. Super adaptoid placed a hex around himself that Hercules couldn't penetrate. And I am sick and tired of how just anyone can sashay in and out as they please. You don't do it to Dr. Strange, Ms. Harkness, Mordo, and every other little two-bit magician running around.

3. Last but not least, when Quicksilver makes his appearance, please return that beautiful light and dark green costume that this present one mimics. And don't draw him so skinny any more. What did he do, lose weight? Make sure you show him flying again, like when he fought Whirlwind, the Adaptoid, Red Guardian's Army, the old days' Magneto, and so forth. Oh yeah, someone tell that good Mr. Peter Sanderson at MARVEL UNIVERSE that Quicksilver

(when he fought Spider-Man) ran through an electric force field in Avengers Mansion. Now, in my book that means that you can run at the speed of light, or close to it. I don't see how 500 paltry mph's can let him even think about it. And since half the heroes and villains (it seems) can fly faster than 500 mph anyway, I don't even see how Marvel had the nerve to say "the fastest man on Earth." The way you have him portrayed, he's not even the fastest mutant on Earth! I demand that somebody restore Quicksilver's former glory and not insult him any longer with that pitiful 500 mph to start, and then he slows down to a crawl at 175 mph.

Thanks for reading this long letter.

David J. Jack

We read all our letters, David—and we're happy to tell you that we do indeed intend to restore Pietro's former glory (despite the rocky road he's presently pursuing). Not that we ever pay attention to matters outside the Marvel Universe, but he is indisputably the fastest man alive these days, and so deserves more attention than he's gotten in the past few years. In addition, those gloves you like on Wanda were restored because Richard shares your fondness for her original look—but we don't think her days of flying are due back any time soon. Can't win 'em all, guy.

Dear Jim,

This time around the Vision and the Scarlet Witch are avoiding the major pitfall of their previous series. Namely, having a special guest star in each issue (and worse, making certain that this was shown on the cover). I have nothing against guest stars, but with a Limited Series (which aside from giving fans solo action of their favorite featured characters) it's hard to judge how well the main heroes would sell on their own.

True, Steve Englehart has given us the West Coast Avengers and with this issue (#4) Doctor Strange, but they didn't intrude on the main couple. Among the few good twists with this issue by Steve was using Stephen Strange as a doctor, not a mystic. Then there's Glamor and Illusion having real para-normal powers which they disguised as sleight of hand tricks; and it's not often we see the Vision facing a foe who can also become intangible.

Regarding the art, Richard Howell's designs and layouts were good. It's interesting to see Doctor Strange sans cape. Page 12 (with Vision's walk through the town) would have been a great cover or splash page during the early 40's. Also the new look of the Scarlet Witch (pages 15-17 and 20-22) with a more classic cape adds to the character. It makes her appear to be less super heroine and more of a witch. Now if this look could be extended to the cover.

I would be a rat not to state what a wonderful job Jim Mooney is doing with the inking. Or to forget Joe Rosen's lettering job, especially if he designed the "Mutant Romance Tales" on the splash page. And Janet Jackson gave the story the right look of night without making everything too dark.

I hope this twelve-issue Limited Series continues with the great work. In fact, I'm hoping that it continues past issue #13, it's that good!

Hurricane Heeran
15908 Sherman Way #5
Van Nuys, CA 91406

As with Wanda's gloves, the design of her cape and the design of "Mutant Romance Tales" came straight from Richard Howell, who's as into this strip as anybody can be. As for guest stars, we use 'em when we need 'em (it's a book about relationships) and don't when we don't (it's a book about one special relationship). Hope you like the mix.

Next: If it's February it must be Mardi Gras time down south, so Wanda and Viz accompany Glamor and Illusion to the party. But what they find there may destroy their marriage long before the baby comes. Don't miss it!